

# LOCAL I-S NEWS

*for department store workers*

VOL. 9, NO. 6

244

NOVEMBER 1, 1957

## I-S Receives New York Fund Congratulations

With a new, all-time record high collection of \$35,000 already in sight Richard E. Booth, Executive Director of the Greater New York Fund came before the Shop Stewards of Local I-S to extend his "personal and official" thanks to them, the Executive Board and the Union's officers.

"I am happy to report," Mr. Booth said, "that the confidence of the community in you was fully justified."

Introducing Mr. Booth as a "surprise and distinguished guest," President Sam Kovenetsky told the Stewards that the success of the 1957 campaign for the Fund was further evidence of "our understanding that trade unions exist, not only to bring about better working conditions and higher pay, but to work for the good of the community as a whole."

President Kovenetsky added his thanks "for a wonderful job" to those offered by Mr. Booth. He said, "You have earned new honors for yourself, your co-workers and our Union. We can all be proud of our accomplishment."

Calling the role of divisions that had chalked up the sharpest increases over last year's figures, the Fund's Executive Director had the highest praise for Jamaica, the Controller's office, Parkchester, and the Second and Ninth Floors of Herald Square. Those areas alone raised a total of almost \$1500 more than they did a year ago.

"But of equal importance is the fact that almost every other area did at least as well as they did in 1956," he said.

"I most sincerely thank you for the wonderful job you have done, and ask you to take my thanks back to the people you represent on behalf of the Greater New York Fund and the three million people who will be aided by its 425 agencies during this year."

### Fund Results

The flood of campaign pledges allowed to a trickle as the peak of the drive days passed.

By mid-October a total of nearly \$34,000 had been turned in, and almost an additional thousand dollars was reported still outstanding. When the remaining pledges are received the 1957 drive will have exceeded the 1956 record by approximately \$1000.

During the 1957 campaign a total of 216 departments earned awards for 100 per cent participation, and 86 departments earned membership in the "425 Club" for average contributions of \$4.25 or more.



Richard E. Booth, Executive Director of the Greater New York Fund, makes a special appearance at I-S Shop Steward meeting to extend his "personal and official thanks" for outstanding fund raising job.

## Macy Sales, Earnings and Profits Zoom Together With Cost of Living

Along with the cost of living, Macy's earnings and sales are going up, up, and up.

For the fiscal year that ended on August 3, Macy's reported net earnings of \$6,986,000, or \$3.44 for each share of common stock. This was about 10 per cent higher than the \$6,348,000, or \$3.07 per share, cleared by the company in the 1956 fiscal year.

1956 was one of the years, as some readers may recall, that Macy representatives were arguing against the Union demand for a wage increase on the grounds that the company's stockholders deserved "a break."

Net sales for the latest year set a record at \$447,639,000, compared with \$398,261,000 in the year before.

Jack Straus, chairman, and Wheelock Bingham, president, said that branch stores added in the last two years had produced \$40,997,000 of the sales increase of \$49,478,000 in the latest year.

The executives commented that earnings were affected by the pre-opening expenses and initially high operating costs of the new stores and by the generally rising cost of doing business.

What this means is that the stores already opened and doing business are the ones that earned enough profit to finance the company's steady expansion—and that the record high figure would have been a lot higher if millions of dollars had not been taken off and re-invested in new stores.

But that's not good enough for Mr. Straus or Mr. Bingham. Knowing that the rising cost of living has already put workers

behind the budget's eight-ball, they try to put the responsibility for controlling inflation on the shoulders of the people most harmed by it.

They said, "Management and labor each have important responsibilities in preventing further inflation. . . . We cannot have steadily rising wages without inflation unless the rise in wages is earned by a corresponding increase in

productivity."

In short, management's responsibility is to either withhold raises or squeeze still more volume out of all workers. Labor's responsibility is to agree with management. And, if everything goes according to plan, sales, earnings and profits will keep going up, up, and up—while workers' living standards will go down, down, and down.

## LAW ALLOWS TIME OFF TO VOTE— BUT YOU MUST ASK FOR IT!

### ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, November 5, Polls open from 6:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.

Section 226 of the Election Law provides that:

An employee who is entitled to vote in the general election is entitled to absent himself from any service or employment for a period of two hours while the polls of election are open.

However, in order that no deduction shall be made from the usual salary or wages of such voter and no other penalty be imposed:

1. The voter shall notify his employer before the day of election of such intended absence.
2. If the employer on the date of such notice designates two successive hours for such absence the voter must use the hours designated.
3. If the employer on the date of such notice does not make any designation, then the voter can use any two successive hours while the polls are open.

Section 226 applies equally to weekly, daily, hourly or piece work wage earnings.

An employee who claims and is accorded time off under Section 226 is entitled to be paid the same amount that he would have received if he had been present and working during the period in which he is permitted to absent himself.

An employer must count the two hours voting time allowed under Section 226 in computing the regular work week for purposes of extra overtime wage payments.

An employee is entitled to the time off so long as any part of his work day coincides with any time polls are open.

## New Night Hours Are Menace To Union-Won Gains

The trend towards more and more night openings of department—and other retail stores—poses a growing threat to hard-won union standards.

This threat will be discussed by President Sam Kovenetsky with other store union leaders and RWDSU officers in an effort to arrive at a joint program of action.

The problem has been brought closer to home for Local I-S members since Macy's has added a third late night at Roosevelt Field, a second one at White Plains, at least temporarily, a third one at Jamaica, and a fourth at Paramus.

"It is ironic," said President Kovenetsky, "that in this case it is the tail that is wagging the dog. The biggest stores in our industry are organized, yet it is the non-union stores that have started this trend."

"It is also important to note that Macy's is first introducing its major changes in the unorganized stores. Organizing the unorganized is therefore one important part of the solution to this problem."

### Going Backward

In the late 1930's and early 40's the union drive for the 5-day 40-hour week was viewed by employers as the doom of the retail industry.

They found, however, that the shopping public was willing to accommodate itself to new hours, and that it was not necessary to stay open six evenings a week.

Now, in response to the competition of the unorganized stores and "public demand," unionized stores are once again stretching their schedules to include an increasing number of late openings.

While opposition to these moves has been diluted by the need or desire on the part of some to work added hours in order to either offset or get ahead of rising living costs, it is safe to presume that managements generally will seek to hold the labor costs of the added hours to a minimum. In many cases this may mean the re-scheduling of workers at straight time rates of pay for forty hours of work on a schedule heavy with evening hours.

"It was only as a result of bitter strikes and a massive political campaign that department stores were forced to give up their 6-day 54-hour week, and that 40 hours was established as the nation's basic work week," said President Kovenetsky. "It is with that in mind that the problem will be discussed and answers looked for."



# Worth Talking About



By President Sam Kovenetsky

"DEFENSE LAY-OFFS JAR LONG ISLAND" was the headline on one newspaper on the morning of October 9th. "Drastic Readjustments Held Needed to Meet Economic Impact of Job Losses." "Workers Warned to Expect Lower Pay."

This was the immediate reaction to news that the latest in a long line of defense plants—the Republic Aviation Corporation—was about to lay off 2,500 to 3,000 of its 14,500 workers.

This was the trigger that led growing numbers of people to wonder whether as a nation we are truly seeking lasting world peace or whether our economic well-being is permanently hitched to the chariot of production for war. To ask whether labor's increased productivity will lead to the promised land of peace and plenty, or whether we are already producing more than we can afford to buy and are now dependent on our war industries to maintain reasonably full employment and prosperity.

**ANOTHER IMMEDIATE REACTION,** according to the New York State Labor Department's employment security manager on Long Island, was that department store officials were keeping close check and would have to cut down their own work forces unless the situation changed for the better!

No one knows, at the moment, how far or how deep the reaction to the present wave of joblessness will go. But we know that this marks a great change since workers at Roosevelt Field first started telling us that they didn't need a union because they could always get another job if they chose to leave Macy's.

In less than one year the picture has changed from bubbling optimism and enthusiasm to insecurity and quiet desperation. "Even if there was any hiring done now, the men would have to take much lower salaries to start," says the Labor Department. *But there is no hiring.*

*This means that many of the wives who a few weeks ago were working in Roosevelt Field for "supplementary income" are now the breadwinners of the family. It means that others at Roosevelt are facing new and stiffer competition for their jobs from those now employed. And it means that everybody's job has taken on new importance—and that they have a new and greater stake in trying to make their jobs as good and as secure as they possibly can.*

This is the time to speed our organizing campaign for the earliest possible signing of a union contract. It is now that the security of a written agreement is of the greatest importance. It is a stark necessity—not a luxury!

**NO MATTER WHAT GOOD MAY COME** from our work, we do not welcome the misfortune which has befallen the many thousands of families who staked everything they had on the permanence of their defense jobs. We think it wrong of the government to give no notice of impending cutbacks—and we think it wrong that special steps were not taken, *in advance*, to help relocate the thousands suddenly displaced.

We remember all too clearly that a bit more than one year ago hundreds of auto workers in Detroit found the mortgages on their homes being foreclosed, and their cars and television sets being repossessed after they were unemployed just a few months. We shudder to think of the same thing happening on Long Island or anywhere else.

**EVERY MEMBER OF LOCAL 1-S HAS A STAKE** in the solutions to these problems. There cannot be the slightest doubt that Macy's will be quick to take advantage of these developments. There can be no doubt but that the company will seek to trim its sails at the expense of its own workers. And there can be no doubt that whatever "efficiency" or "economy" measures are used and found successful there they will attempt to introduce in the other stores.

We said, more than a year ago, that the presence of Roosevelt Field as an unorganized store would hang like a sword over our heads. Unfortunately, this is even truer today than it was then. But today the possibilities of extending the security we have already won for ourselves to our co-workers at Roosevelt are greater than ever.

We want, need, and must have—quickly—the names of all our members (especially those living in Nassau and Suffolk) who are willing to spend an occasional evening visiting Roosevelt Field workers at their homes. We owe it to ourselves and we owe it to them to do the job—NOW!

## Board Unanimously Votes Raise For Officers; Members Vote in January

The Local 1-S Executive Board, under the chairmanship of First Vice President Phil Hoffstein, devoted itself, at its regular meeting on October 22nd, to discussion and recommendations on the wage scale of its officers; the mounting need for stepped-up political action; the findings of its Trial Committee; and the naming of a broadened Activities Committee.

### Wage Scale

It was the unanimous recommendation of the Constitution Committee that the Board approve, for membership action, an increase of \$50 in the salary of the president, and \$25 for each of the two vice presidents.

In the discussion before the Board voted unanimously in support of the recommendation, Robert McLean (Basement), who is a member of the Constitution Committee, said, "It is my opinion that the officers deserve as much as we can afford to pay them. Their jobs have been underpaid all along. A higher pay scale will be an incentive for sharp competition for these positions, and will give us the pick of the most able people in the store."

Said Harry Webster (Elevators), "The value of these jobs cannot be based on what we make in Macy's. The salary of the officers should be commensurate with the responsibilities of the job."

Tony LaSalvia (Jamaica), who is also a member of the Constitution Committee, urged Board approval of the recommendation. He, too, put stress on the "major responsibilities of our officers," and said, "we must pay them a salary consistent with the work their positions demand."

Vice President Hoffstein, at the end of the discussion in which many other members participated, said, "This proposal

merits time for careful consideration by the membership. The question is not whether the present officers are worth it—you can always get other officers—but is the job worth it in relation to wages being paid for comparable work in other department store unions and in relation to the responsibilities entailed?"

The question will be submitted to the membership at the January meeting.

### Political Action

Administrator Ann Jimenez reported on an all-day conference attended by herself, Board members Estelle Sage and Dorothea Andrews, Shop Steward Jean Bloom and Administrator Charles Boyd.

Purpose of the meeting was to mobilize support for the passage of the Sharkey-Isaacs-Brown Bill outlawing discrimination in privately owned housing in New York City.

All members interested in advancing democracy were urged to write to Mayor Wagner and their councilman asking prompt passage of the bill.

In further discussion on political action, Helen Ruderman (White Plains), urged the Board to spend more time discussing the means of reaching the membership with political issues of importance.

Vice President Hoffstein said that, "If we just nod and agree to send telegrams we are not doing our job." He called on Board members to participate in the affairs of the Union's Committee on Political Education as "the only means by which we can effectively fight on the political front for or against those issues that directly affect us on the economic front."

Education Director Dick Pastor called on the Board to play a

more active part in discussing with the Shop Stewards the political issues that are discussed at Board meetings and which are printed in the Union's paper. He said that, "As more Board members become involved in political action, we will see a greater level of activity on all the floors they represent."

### Trials

The Executive Board backed its Trial Committee's recommendations, submitted by Sylvia Temple (DA-CT), that Janet Greenway (126 Dept.) be officially reprimanded for her attitude towards her Shop Steward, and that Marietta Schlessler (42 Dept.) be suspended from the benefits of Union membership for 90 days for having "jeopardized the job of a Union member" by reporting her to management.

### Activity

The Board approved the naming of its following members to an enlarged Activities Committee: Cathryn Hall (7th Fl.), Jerry Harte (5th Fl.), Harry Liebowitz (Alt. & Repair), Mildred Kaplonski (Controllers), Sybil Molk (DA-CT), Harriet Frazier (Packing), and representatives from the branch stores.

The Board welcomed newly-elected Louis Cerrilli from Parkchester and Charles DeGeorge of Advertising.

The resignation, for personal reasons, of Bernard Devlin, Display, was accepted with regret.

*Is political action necessary? Join your co-workers, Stewards, Board members and officers, plus a New York Congressman, in a round table discussion at the Union office on Wednesday, November 6th at 6:45 P.M. Help answer this burning question!*

## All In a Day's—or Night's—Work



Shop Stewards and Board members attend special meeting at Hotel New Yorker to study and discuss Constitutional amendments recommended by special committee and approved by the Executive Board. After full and lively discussion Stewards backed proposals which members acted on at general meeting.

### HELP!

LEGAL CLINIC  
SOCIAL SERVICE  
COMPENSATION AID

Free of Charge

at the

UNION OFFICE

Every Wednesday

From 5:30 to 7 P.M.

### LOCAL 1-S NEWS

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1st Vice Pres.: Philip Hoffstein

2nd Vice Pres.: William Atkinson

Editorial Board

Jerome Harte, Mary Boyd, Ceil Curry

Editor: Dick Pastor

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# For PROGRAMS, PLATFORMS, IN '57 MAYORALTY CAMPAIGN

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Mayor Robert F. Wagner



Candidate Robert K. Christenberry

## Democratic Party

Robert F. Wagner, Democratic Mayor of the City of New York, is running for re-election based on the performance of his administration during the past four years.

In recognition of the record of his administration, as well as his achievements in the field of labor, Mayor Wagner has received the endorsement of both the CIO and AFL Councils in the city.

On the record, the present administration has thrown the full weight of the city government behind organized labor's fight to rid its ranks of corrupt influences. From the beginning the City Labor Department has worked closely with the CIO and AFL Councils on this problem.

In addition, Mayor Wagner appointed a ten-man committee on Exploitation of Workers to lend further assistance in the campaign to end exploitation of workers, predominantly Negro

and Puerto Rican, by the alliance of some unscrupulous employers and racketeers masquerading as trade unionists.

One of the first acts of the Wagner Administration on taking office was the establishment of a City Department of Labor, which has helped resolve many labor-management problems.

Under the leadership of Mayor Wagner, the City instituted the 40-hour work week for its employees, and extended Social Security coverage to them for the first time.

On housing, the Wagner Administration has accelerated the building of middle-income projects and the city's slum clearance program.

Mayor Wagner has personally endorsed the Sharkey-Brown-Isaacs Bill to outlaw discrimination in privately owned housing developments. This Bill, however, has remained bottled up and the City Council has not yet acted on it.

## Republican Party

Robert Christenberry, Republican Party candidate for mayor, said, "We pledge ourselves to provide the kind of city government that the people of this city want and which they are entitled to receive."

With regard to the city's employees, the Republican platform states, "Our Civil Service employees shall be assured that merit will be the only path to promotion and that we will find the finances to provide the salary increases necessary to maintain a decent standard of living."

On housing, the platform says, "with the confidence in the integrity of a new city administration and its determination to clean out unwholesome conditions, private rehabilitation programs will be encouraged and stimulated."

On education, the GOP program says, "Last year we spent \$443,000,000, exclusive of capital expenditures, to support our

primary and secondary schools. The children have not received full value in educational program."

"We will insist upon a responsible, independent Board of Education, accountable for providing the finest educational system in the world—one of which we will be proud."

On Public Safety, the Republican Party platform says, "We are proud of our great police force and pay tribute to their accomplishments, but the war against crime in the streets cannot be won with wholly inadequate numbers."

"... We say we cannot afford to have a city in which our streets and parks are becoming increasingly dangerous for decent men, women and children..."

The text of the Republican Party's statement of Campaign Principles and Platform contains

On education, the Administration has renovated old schools and built new ones faster than ever before. It has backed the Board of Education's program for racial integration of the public school system. It has increased teacher's salaries, and reduced the number of years required for a teacher to go from minimum to maximum salary.

On public safety, the Administration has increased the size of the police force, and has also taken steps in the area of crime prevention. Added appropriations for community centers and the development of new ones, expanded playground facilities, a strengthened youth board, are steps taken toward the eradication of juvenile delinquency.

The administration says it has "no illusions" that it has solved all municipal problems. It rests its case before the people on the progress it has made in its four years in office, and pledges more progress yet to come.

no reference to either labor or civil rights and it therefore cannot be compared with the position of the opposing party.

In supplying the Local I-S NEWS with biographical data on candidate Christenberry, the Republican City Campaign Committee listed the following as Mr. Christenberry's public services: Vice Consul in Vladivostok, Siberia and Santo Domingo, following World War I, Advisor to OPA for the hotel industry during World War II; At General Eisenhower's request conducted a tour of inspection of all hotels in American Zone of Occupation in Europe; Surveyed Irish hotels and resorts for the ECA; Served as chairman of the New York State Athletic Commission for three-and-a-half years; Appointed by President Eisenhower as chairman of the Hotel Division of the People to People program to promote better international understanding.

## NEW YORK LABOR BACKS WAGNER ON HIS RECORD

The New York City CIO and AFL Councils have endorsed Mayor Robert Wagner for re-election on the basis of his administration's record during its first four year term in office and its general responsiveness to the needs of the people—including organized labor.

This is not to say that unions have gotten everything they have asked for. There have been lapses, some more serious than others. The current battle for passage of the Sharkey-Brown-Isaacs Bill is one such case in point.

It was Mayor Wagner himself who called for such a bill to outlaw discrimination in privately owned housing. Wagner was hailed widely for the wisdom and initiative he showed. The bill was drafted and presented to the City Council.

When the landlords began a heavy barrage of the bill—and when union members and democratic-minded tenants failed to speak out, the politicians dove

for cover. Responsibility for the failure of the Council to pass this measure to this date cannot, therefore, be placed solely on the shoulders of the Mayor, but belongs rightly with every man and woman who believes in the simple justice of such a law and who has not yet spoken out in support of it.

### Aided I-S Strike

At the same time, it was none other than Mayor Wagner who placed the full services of the City's Labor Department at the disposal of Local I-S and Macy's in an effort to more quickly settle the 1956 strike.

The company was reluctant to accept any outside mediators, but the pressure of City Hall made Macy's aware that public opinion would be even more solidly mobilized against them if they continued in their refusal to negotiate.

### Union Town

In the 1930's, demonstrating

workers used to chant, "Wages up, hours down, make New York a union town."

Mayor Wagner recognizes New York as a "union town", and has pledged to help keep it that way.

When City Hall has a choice of hiring union or non-union men to do a job for the city, the choice is made to "promote union standards."

City employees have been the major beneficiaries of the city's new "Little Wagner Act." While most city services have steadily expanded, the wages of municipal employees have gone up. For the first time their own union dues are checked off by the city, and collective bargaining has advanced further than ever before.

### Political Action

It would be completely wrong to conclude from all this, however, that things will stay as they are without the active participation of both the leaders and members of unions.

There is constant political pressure designed to shift the administration's course—to place more of a tax burden on wage earners, to favor the landlord at the expense of the tenant, to oppose the end of "witch hunting."

The trade unions of New York represent the largest—and potentially the most influential—organization of citizens.

It has been said many times—and continues to need saying—that politics is bread and butter. It is taxes, schools, playgrounds, transportation. Politics is minimum wage laws, unemployment insurance, Workmen's Compensation, and Social Security.

The men we send to office all are called on to vote for or against measures that have direct and important meanings to all of us.

If we speak out, by writing letters, sending telegrams, and visiting our elected representatives we help convince them that our voice and our vote are important. If we keep silent, we

must take all the risks that go with looking as though we don't care.

**The first thing to do is to BE SURE TO VOTE!**

The next thing to do is to join Local I-S' Committee on Political Education—it meets on every first and third Tuesday at the Union office. You have a stake in political action. DO YOUR SHARE!

**Vote  
"YES"  
for  
New York State  
Constitutional  
Convention**





"Off-Broadway" comes to Local 1-S. Director James McMahon leads members of the Antoine Players through their parts in "The Twisting Road." Play deals with three aspects of Negro life in the South.

## Previewers Hail 'The Twisting Road', Playing Weekends at 1-S Auditorium

A small but intensely enthusiastic audience of professional theatre-goers helped the Antoine Players mark the end of four weeks of concentrated preparation as they cheered a dress-rehearsal performance of Bert Marnik's "The Twisting Road," on October 31st.

A large turnout is expected for this new and exciting play, written by a member of Local 1-S and being produced in the Unions'

own auditorium when it opens on Friday, November 1st.

Added interest was centered on the play as a result of a 45 minute interview of leading lady Clarice Taylor on radio station WLJB.

Miss Taylor's guest appearance on Betty's Granger's program was marked by a special plea for trade union and community support of "The Twisting Road," and public thanks to Local 1-S

for making its facilities available to the Antoine Players.

Excellent advance publicity in many of New York's newspapers and still more radio interviews scheduled are expected to make this new and completely professional off-Broadway venture a huge success.

"The Twisting Road" will play every Friday, Saturday and Sunday night. For reservations, call OR 5-9603. But do it now!

## UNIONS REQUEST TEXT OF 1-S TELEGRAM TO SEN. McCLELLAN

Local 1-S has received requests from a few New York unions for the text of its telegram to Senator John McClellan.

It is safe to assume that many other good unionists are seeking ways and means to censure the Senator from Arkansas who favors a national union-busting "right to work" law, who stands against progress towards integration in his state, and who uses

his anti-labor hearings as a springboard.

Unfortunately, many unionists have remained silent for fear that criticism of McClellan would be interpreted as support of corruption.

We hope the stand taken by the Executive Board of Local 1-S will be of help to others in pressing the fight for democracy and in defending their unions against the anti-labor "housecleaners."

The text of the Local 1-S telegram follows:

The Executive Board of Local 1-S, Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, AFL-CIO, representing 8000 Macy workers, unanimously went on record on September 24 in condemnation of your opposition to federal interference in Arkansas while you and your committee promote federal interference in the internal affairs of trade unions. While we unhesitatingly condemn corruption we do not believe it can be legislated out of existence. Only the fullest democracy extended to all people can guarantee an honest administration in both the unions of our country and the State of Arkansas. Tragically, there is a greater denial of Constitutional rights in your home state than there is in any labor organization. We would urge you to place yourself on the side of democracy there.

## Sign Up For 1-S Basketball Team

All members of Local 1-S who are in good standing and who are interested in forming a basketball squad to represent the Union in league competition are asked to report to the Union office at 6:30 P.M. on Monday, November 11th.

The league will consist of teams from other department stores and shops represented by RWDSU locals.

Competition is expected to begin immediately after the Christmas holidays, with scrimmages scheduled before.

## PERSONALS

WANTED—Man to share small apartment, own room. East Flatbush Ocean Parkway and Avenue P. IRT Station. Phone NI 5-2854.

FOR SALE—3/4 HP portable compressor and spray gun, complete outfit in excellent condition. Good woman's racoon coat, size 14. Complete pool table, 56 x 30 inches, folds compactly. Very reasonable. Phone ST 4-6450 after 6 P.M.

WANTED—Two or three room furnished apartment. Couple with one child. Can pay \$65. Astoria preferred. Call Wednesday or Saturday, YE 2-6523.

WANTED—4 room apartment, unfurnished, to \$100. Phone KI 3-5616.

FOR SALE—Monitor washing machine, hand wringer. Good condition. Excellent for small apartment. Call SE 3-0804 after 6 P.M.

FOR SALE—Baby carriage, Atlas Jr. coach, excellent condition. Reasonable. Call DI 5-8560 after 6 P.M.

FOR SALE—Gas stove, four burner thermostat oven, electric clock and timer. Excellent condition. Reasonable. Phone WE 1-5372.

FOR RENT—Large studio room in five room apartment for bachelor gentleman. Ground floor, 1509 Lincoln Place, Brooklyn, after 7 P.M.

Personal ads for the Local 1-S NEWS must be received at the Union office by the 1st or 15th day of each month. Ads received on the 1st will appear in the issue dated the 15th. Those received on the 15th will appear in the issue dated the 1st of the following month. This is offered as a service to members of Local 1-S and there is no charge for personal ads.

**MEDICAL PLAN**—For the name and address of the doctor, dentist, optometrist or podiatrist nearest you CALL the Union Office—WA 4-4540 or Associated Physicians Medical Group—BU 8-4210 (Night or Day). Complete schedule of fees available upon request.

**BLOOD BANK**—If you need blood from the Blood Bank CALL the Union Office—WA 4-4540.

## TO THE EDITOR

### 1-S'ERS DULLMINDED

After reading a good many copies of the 1-S News, and particularly the letters to the editor, I could not help but wonder who is fooling whom. Having worked beside the rank and file of Macy workers a good many years, I began to ask myself a question, since when did Macy workers become so articulate and able to express themselves so adequately as the letters to the editor indicate. To read some of the letters to the editor, one would think that the workers at Macys are a really literate lot, which I know from experience they are not. In fact, seldom have I seen a more dullminded, inept, sullen, aggressive, stupid group of people that are gathered under one roof, as one sees at Macys. Nor are they aware of the open handed fraud that is being perpetrated on them in the name of unionism. Why it is necessary to dupe these ill informed and underprivileged segments of society, has puzzled me very often. That they are mute as well as inarticulate is all too obvious. To picture them otherwise is a farce and inconsistent with the truth.

Prior to filing my claim against Macys and the Union for collusion and collaboration in bringing about my dismissal, about a year ago, I thought I would let you know how I felt about the situation in general. My lawyers have advised me that they are about ready to take the matter to court, having spent considerable time gathering sufficient

evidence and facts together.

Getting back to the letters to the editor, my attention was focused on them because they were, in my opinion, very well written, too well, in fact, for people whom I know are incapable of even uttering a coherent sentence. Such is the caliber of mind that one finds at Macys. In other words, they all seem to have a professional touch. Not just a rewrite job, as is obviously necessary in any newspaper, but thoroughly precise and to the point.

And, what is even more surprising, is that wholehearted support they all have for the Union. Could it be that the Union is super-imposed on the people working at Macys? A small group of people giving the impression that they have a mob behind them, and they represent a strong pressure. I wonder what congress would think about it. Perhaps I will drop them a card hinting that maybe Local 1-S needs investigating. What fools these mortals be. . .

Yours truly,  
Richard M. Stepteau

Editor's Note:

We are printing Mr. Stepteau's letter in full (including its many spelling errors) only because of the unwitting compliment he pays the hundreds of members whose letters have been published. For the fact is that those letters, "thoroughly precise and to the point", along with their "wholehearted support" for the Union,

have not been edited, re-written or ghost written. They are the words of alert, articulate and intelligent people.

Incidentally, Mr. Stepteau worked in Herald Square for less than three months and was fired for "inefficiency and incompetency in the performance of his job during the probationary period." This would hardly seem to qualify him as a critic of his former co-workers!

### HEALTH PLAN NOTE

If you plan to take a leave of absence (including maternity and military leave) for more than 30 days or if you leave the store and wish to continue your Health Plan coverage on a direct payment basis YOU MUST see the Local 1-S Health Plan Consultant at the Union office.

You are covered by The Health Plan only until the end of the month in which you leave the store, and have another 30 days within which to arrange for your direct payments.

If you, or a member of your family covered by the Health Plan enters the hospital or has medical care covered by the Health Plan you MUST call on the Union office for claim forms immediately on entering or as soon as possible thereafter. Forms must be filled out and returned directly to the Union office.

Protect yourself—protect your family—protect your benefits. Be sure to come to the Union office on time.

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